

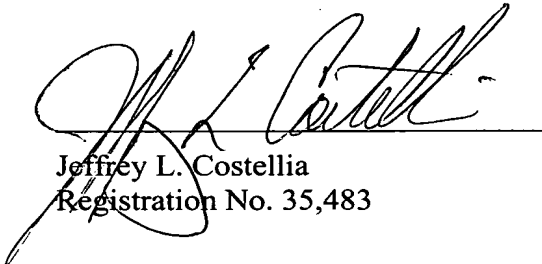
REMARKS

Further to the Amendment filed March 15, 2005, claims 1, 3 and 32-34 have been amended to improve form. Accordingly, claims 1-45 are pending for consideration, of which claims 1, 3, 6, 9 and 32-34 are independent.

Since these amendments are provided merely to clarify the meaning of the claim features, the arguments regarding the prior art rejections in the response filed March 15, 2005 are still applicable in view of the claim amendments.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey L. Costellia
Registration No. 35,483

NIXON PEABODY LLP
401 9th Street, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128
(202) 585-8000
(202) 585-8080 FAX

JLC/BCO